



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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22 November 2010

Miss Odelia Leung
Clerk to Panel on Education
Legislative Council Secretariat
3rd Floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Leung,

**LegCo Panel on Education Meeting on 8 November 2010
Supplementary Information on
Grant to support the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority for
continual rental of onscreen marking centre on Hong Kong Island, and for
conducting the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination and
the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination for
private candidates in 2011 and 2013 respectively**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Education held on 8 November 2010, Members requested for information on the site/vacant premises search for the HKEAA Headquarters and onscreen marking centres in the past few years, and the income of rechecking/remarking cases in recent years. I enclose herewith the relevant information and should be grateful if you would circulate the information to the Panel for reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Alice CHEUNG)
for Secretary for Education

LegCo Panel on Education Meeting on 8 November 2010
Supplementary Information on

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for continual rental of onscreen marking centre on Hong Kong Island,
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Site/vacant premises search for the development of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) headquarters and onscreen marking centres in the past few years

HKEAA Headquarters

The original long term accommodation plan for HKEAA was to re-develop the ex-North Kowloon Magistracy Building (ex-NKMB) in Sham Shui Po as the HKEAA headquarters, hence freeing up its existing offices in Southern Centre of Wan Chai and in San Po Kong for conversion into the permanent Island and Kowloon East onscreen marking (OSM) centres. As the proposed ex-NKMB development plan could not be further pursued, the Government looked for alternative sites or vacant premises, which should satisfy the following criteria in order to meet HKEAA's operational requirements –

- a) it should be served by public transport, with convenient access for teachers, examination personnel, parents and student;
- b) it should have loading/unloading area for examination papers, equipment and material;
- c) it should have a net usable area of at least 7,800 m² for development of headquarters or about 9,000 m² if the site is in Kowloon East for the development of both headquarters and onscreen marking centre; and
- d) it should preferably be in decent condition to minimize renovation cost

2. The following sites/premises have been identified in the past few years but were found unsuitable –

Sites/vacant premises	Reasons for not being suitable
Ex-Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (Shatin) in Ma On Shan	The vehicular access to the school site is not satisfactory for delivering question papers by a large number of vans early in the morning during the examination period. HKEAA considered that the location of the premises is not convenient for the majority of its stakeholders, e.g. teachers, candidates, parents, etc.
Ex-Sung Tak School in Tai Po	The site area is too small (only about 290m ²).
A site at Fu Yee Road, Siu Sai Wan	Because of the height restriction for the development, it cannot meet the area requirement. The site is far from MTR station.
A site at junction of Soy Street and Shanghai Street	The site is too small to meet the loading/unloading requirements. The streets nearby the site are very busy which may likely affect the timely delivery of question papers during the examination period.
A site at Tin Yip Road, Tin Shui Wai	HKEAA considered that the location of the site is not convenient for the majority of its stakeholders.

Onscreen marking centres

3. The current Lai King and Tsuen Wan OSM centres were converted from vacant school premises in 2006. For the Hong Kong Island OSM centre, the long term plan is to convert the existing offices in Southorn Centre as the permanent centre after the establishment of HKEAA headquarters. While a temporary centre has been established by renting commercial premises since 2006, we also looked for alternative suitable premises which meet the following requirements –

- a) it should have a net usable area of about 1,500 m² for housing about 370 onscreen marking workstations and a range of associated facilities;
- b) it should be served by public transport with convenient access for markers;

and

c) it should preferably be in decent condition to minimize renovation costs

4. The following premises have been identified in the past few years but were found unsuitable -

Vacant premises	Reasons for not being suitable
Ex-Upper Level Police Station in Sai Ying Pun	The premises is a historic building. The renovation and recurrent maintenance costs of the premises are considered too high.
Ex-Chai Wan Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School in Chai Wan	HKEAA considered that the location of the school premises is inconvenient as it is on hillside with long walking distance away from Chai Wan MTR station.
Ex-premises of Church Body of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui – St. Mary’s Church College in Soo Kun Po	The usable area of each floor is small and the floor layout is not suitable for effective operation as an onscreen marking centre.
Ex-premises of Singapore International School in Kennedy Town	HKEAA considered that the premises is not conveniently located.

Income of rechecking/remarking/appeal review cases received in recent years

5. The statistics on income of rechecking/remarking/appeal review cases for the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) and the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) from 2008 to 2010 are set out in the table below -

Year	Income (\$ million)	
	HKCEE	HKALE
2008	4.7	9.3
2009	7.4	12.3
2010	9.3	17.6

6. Despite the increase in income on rechecking/remarking/appeal cases from 2008 to 2010, it should be noted that the income of the HKCEE and HKALE (including examination fee and supplementary fees on applications for change of

schedule, rechecking, remarking and appeal, etc) cannot cover their respective running costs. The deficit has been absorbed by HKEAA.

Education Bureau
November 2010